

The Cable Tow



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GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES





GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

Masonic Year 1998-1999

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM
Editor-in-Chief

Abelardo L. Aportadera, Jr.
Executive Editor

Ramon G. Nuñez
Business Manager

Charles F. Megerle
Official Photographer

Ramon B. Protacio
Circulation/Exchange

FROM THE GRAND ORIENTAL CHAIR



Giordano Bruno had been dead for some 270 years before his philosophical writings and libertarian ideas reached the Philippines.

During Bruno's lifetime and up to the end of the 19th century, the Philippines was the remotest colony of the Spanish Empire. The Spaniards Christianized the Filipinos and governed them through the religious orders. This arrangement enabled the friars to acquire vast wealth and power, but the only way they could maintain their mastery over the people was by keeping them in ignorance. The Filipinos had to be kept blissfully unaware of

the libertarian ideas that were sweeping through Europe.

Freedom of thought, worse yet, freedom of speech were proscribed; and freedom of association was evidence of subversion. Freedom of religion was out of the question.

For centuries, therefore, the Philippines was sealed off from the outside world. The Filipinos were not allowed to hear of "liberty," "equality" and "fraternity." All libertarian ideas and writings on the rights of man were banned. Even the Bible was on the censor's list because Christ died for all men and not just Spaniards.

In the last three decades of the 19th century, however, the Spanish friars could no longer maintain the intellectual blockade of the islands. With improved economic conditions, Filipino families were able to send their sons to the intellectual capitals of the world to study. Young Filipinos absorbed the wisdom of the Western World. A new breed of intellectuals was produced to whom Bruno, Galileo, Copernicus and the other giants of the European Renaissance were household names, representing the liberation of the human mind from ignorance and unchallenged reli-

gion. The students brimmed with ideas about liberty and freedom, about science and progress. In time they sparked a revolution that drove the Spaniards away and created my country.

Beyond doubt, the greatest intellectual product of that period of the Philippine Renaissance was Dr. Jose P. Rizal. He was a man who might rightly be called an intellectual descendant of Bruno. Remarkably, his life and Bruno's had numerous parallels. With your indulgence therefore, I would like to dwell on the life of Rizal *vis a vis* that of Bruno.

Rizal, like Bruno, fervently believed in the primacy of the intellect. Like Bruno he was a man of outstanding intelligence. Bruno was a philosopher, astronomer, mathematician, poet and occultist whose theories anticipated modern science. Rizal was also wonderfully versatile. He undertook various activities and left his distinguishing mark in all of them. He was, for instance, one of the greatest occultist of his day, so great that the scientists of Europe held him in honor and followed with attention his discoveries and works. He was so famous that patients came from far-

distant countries to be treated by him, and when he was exiled still followed him into the wilderness. He was a sculptor of such power and skill that his works often fascinated the beholder with their almost mysterious suggestions of deeper human significance. He was an ethnologist whose invaluable collections are still preserved in the great museum of Dresden. He was a zoologist who discovered, classified and recorded new species of animal life in remote regions. He was an accomplished linguist, the fluent and easy master of native dialects, of Latin, Spanish, French, Italian, German, English and Japanese. He was able to compose in these languages with facile and idiomatic power; beginning a letter in German, continuing it in French and ending it in English without flaw in the total expression. He ornamented his books with sentiments in Japanese or Hebrew as the fancy seized him. He was an artist in portraiture and caricature with his pencil and on canvas. He was a novelist whose depiction of manners and characters were etched so vividly that they startled Europe, stung his own people to revolt, and nerved his enemies to destroy him. He was a poet that in his native tongue sands with pathos and charm. He was an educator and an able civil engineer. When he was banished, his first work in the uncouth country to which he was sent was to establish a school on exactly those lines that have since been followed in remaking the educational system of the Philippines, a country that did not exist when he lived, and which came into being because of his death. He provided the little town of his exile with water works, which remained in use for decades. He was a publicist and reformer who knew well the evils that afflicted his country; knew their source, knew their cure, and strove conscientiously for the common

good. For he was a philosophical democrat with faith founded upon reasoning, upon knowledge of history and upon deliberate conviction.

Giordano Bruno's life is much better known to you. But surely you discern the parallels between them.

Both believed in the power and primacy of reason, of which they had only to look into themselves to find sterling examples. Both had a certain pride in their accomplishments but not arrogance.

Bruno, as we all know, actually believed that the religion of the religious orders were for lesser minds, and that a man of superior intellect might apprehend the nature of God through the study of his works, and in that fashion, render to God the highest compliment of following his creation.

Rizal identified more with his oppressed compatriots and hoped that, with the ascendance of liberalism in Spain, a greater tolerance would spread among his people; a truer faith — one that worshipped God rather than justified the tyranny of his ministers.

Bruno therefore believed in religious toleration, since the true religion, the real Catholicism, was one to which all open minds would be drawn of their own accord.

Bruno traveled all over Europe, to its celebrated seats of learning, imparting as much as imbibing knowledge and wisdom. Rizal did the same, though his science was of the modern kind, with empirical study replacing occult speculation.

Bruno was excommunicated, charges were prepared against him by Inquisition; Rizal formally condemned by the Catholic Church. Yet, neither foreswore religion in general, nor the Catholic faith in particular. Bruno and Rizal believed that, at the root of their mas-

ters' hostility towards them, was ignorance. If and when their masters saw the light, they would welcome its bearers.

Bruno never retracted what he had carefully thought out. Neither did Rizal. Though Bruno was more of the hothead, Rizal was a placid nature by most accounts. He did not flare up with conviction, but he burned with a steady flame. When both faced their executioners, neither would retract to save their lives because it seemed incomprehensible to deny what reason had revealed to be right.

There is the same mystery about the deaths of Giordano Bruno and Jose Rizal. Why did Bruno freely return to Italy, to the jurisdiction of the Inquisition whose charges against him had not been dropped? Why did Jose Rizal, against advice of friends, return to certain death?

Both believed that only ignorance stood between their enemies and the universal acceptance of their ideas.

Rizal did not want independence for a young nation. He wanted the reforms in Spain to be extended to the colony. Surely, Spain would soon come to realize that it is better to retain its colonies by treating them equally than to lose them by driving them to fury and desperation.

Bruno was less consistent in his convictions, flirting briefly with the Protestant faith. But he returned to Catholicism and stayed with it all the way to the stake.

Both were misled by historical developments. Bruno believed that the crowning of the Protestant Henry of Navarre as the Catholic King of France would usher in an era of tolerance because here was a king who had no strong feelings for either faith and would be tolerant of all of them. As France was

the most powerful kingdom in Europe, that tolerance would soon spread all over.

Rizal saw the momentary triumph of liberalism in Spain and thought, correctly, that it was a matter of time before liberal ideas came to dominate Spanish life and mellow Spanish governance. That is why he returned to his country. Rizal was right, of course; a few years ago a democratic king finally ascended the Spanish throne and ended half a millenium of religious intolerance. Rizal missed it by half a century. Of course, had he joined the cause of Spanish freedom in the 1930s, the way he joined the cause of Cuban liberty at the turn of the century, he would have been shot.

Both as we said had strong convictions. Unfortunately, they were beliefs in the essential goodness and rationality of men who had only to be educated to act rightly. Yet, even in the face of what would seem an evident mistake about human nature—even as they heard the sentence of death read to them—neither flinched nor complained.

Bruno met his death with great agony but enough equanimity not to ask to be spared.

Rizal walked calmly to his death. The night before he composed one of the most beautiful poems in Spanish, *Mi Ultimo Adios*. When his pulse was taken in front of the firing squad, the military doctor said, "You have it well." Then the guns spoke.

Bruno came before the formal organization of Masonry, the religion of reason. Rizal was privileged to become a Mason.

It is said that, on the eve of his execution, he abjured Masonry in a confession whose authenticity is questioned to this day. It is possible that he gave in to the urgings of his Jesuit mentors

whose authenticity is questioned to this day. It is possible that he gave in to the urgings of his Jesuit mentors or that he sought to spare his family from further harassment by the Church. But many doubt it.

At this juncture I wish to digress and refer to another great hero in the cause of enlightenment. He also had to pay dearly for his convictions but not the ultimate price. He was Galileo. You all know that Galileo had the genius and temerity to demonstrate the correctness of Copernicus's claim that the earth moves around the sun. This contradicted the biblical story that God held back the sun so Joshua could go on fighting. Galileo was charged before the Inquisition. He escaped the ultimate penalty by recanting what he had incontrovertibly proved.

That makes him lesser than Bruno. Perhaps it is because he had a less daring intellect. Bruno believed that, not only that the sun is the center of a planetary system, but that the universe was infinite and populated with more of the same. Solar systems without end. Galileo thought this it was it, just one. After all, if God is infinite, Bruno argued, his creation couldn't be less.

Galileo is said to have shouted after signing his retraction, "But the earth does move just the same." Well, too late. That is why he is not a hero of the mind nor a symbol of

the free spirit of man. He was just a very smart man.

His scientific work will always have its distinguished place in the history of science and the progress of mankind. But his name will not resonate like Bruno's in the far greater struggle of men to liberate themselves rather than just the forces of nature, and thereby release the full potential planted in them by their Creator.

Bruno and Rizal are two rare characters who exalt their respective nations and the human race. Both saw in the workings of the universe, as revealed by science, the architecture of the Supreme Geometer that is venerated by the Craft.

Bruno, coming too soon, searched Europe in vain for an exalted companionship of the mind. Rizal was fortunate to have found, in the Masonic fraternity, the living practice of what seemed scientifically and self-evidently to be true as well: that all men are equal and brothers.

Masonry builds its temples in the hearts of men. A hundred years ago in my country, and three hundred years ago in yours, two such temples were torn down. One in flames, the other in a hail of bullets. But out of the destruction of their lives, men have built what is today the vast house of science and the global house of freedom.

The Masons use the Square and Compasses as their most common symbol. The Square stands for Virtue and Morality. The Compasses stand for the importance of keeping our passions within bounds. But it is even richer the Square also stands for the world and physical reality. The compasses also stand for spiritual things. So, one of the meanings of the symbol is that while a person has a physical or animal nature and a spiritual nature, the spiritual should be stronger than the physical. The letter "G" in the compasses stands for God and, also, for geometry since the ancients believed that the study of geometry led the mind to the study of God.

Annual Communication and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

Come April 22 to 24, 1999, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines shall hold its 83rd Annual Communication in General Santos City. Past Masters, the incumbent Masters and Wardens of its entire subordinate Lodges will again gather for the transaction of business. During the Annual Communication, the members of the Grand Lodge will elect the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary for the ensuing Masonic year.

Past Annual Communications have focused on the election of the Grand Lodge officers. In most instances, the transaction of business is overshadowed by the elections. However, we should not lose sight of the importance of the transactions at hand. The Grand Master's Report should be read by every member more specifically the recommendations of the Standing Committees and Special Committees:

1. How are the finances of the Grand Lodge?
2. What Masonic jurisprudence was established during the Masonic Year?
3. Do certain provisions of the Constitution or Ordinances need revision or rewriting?
4. What are the statuses of the Blue Lodges or Subordinate Lodges?
5. Were there grievances received and acted upon by the Grand Lodge thru the Committee on Grievances?
6. How faithful have the brethren

and subordinate lodges been in keeping the works?

7. How many temples were built during the Masonic year?

We must bear in mind that the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of the Philippines is the Supreme Masonic Power and Authority within its Grand Jurisdiction, possessing all the attributes of sovereignty and government — Legislature, Executive and Judicial — limited only by strict adherence to the Landmarks of the Order and to its own Constitution, Uniform Code By-Laws for Subordinate Lodges, Edicts and General Regulations. When the Grand Lodge is opened in an Annual or Special Communication, it exercises its Supreme Masonic Powers and Authority. This occasion happens only once a year in a three day sessions during the Annual Communication. Let us exercise our Masonic Powers and Authority with **WISDOM, PRUDENCE** and **FORTITUDE**.

Letter to the Editor

NUEVA VIZCAYA COURT NO. 13
Order of the Amaranth
Solano, Nueva Vizcaya

November 18, 1998

The Editor-in-Chief
The Cabletow
Plaridel Masonic Temple
1440 San Marcelino St.,
Metro Manila, D 2801

Sir:

Kindly print this query because I'm sure the Masons should also be concerned.

This is to inquire why the Filipino version of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag printed in the Order of the Amaranth Ritual should not be used in the subordinate and Grand Courts and in all Mason Lodges in the Philippines. The Amaranth Ritual provides that other nations can use their own; the Philippine schools use the Filipino version and so with the Boy and Girl Scouts of the Philippines. We have some brother Masons who recite it in their respective lodges. Isn't it more nationalistic and patriotic to recite our pledge in our own language?

The text of the Filipino version of the pledge runs as:

ANG PANUNUMPA SA WATAWAT

Ako ay Pilipino.

Buong katapatang nanunumpa, sa watawat ng Pilipinas.

At sa bansang kanyang isinasagisag na may dangal, katarungan at kalayaan na ipinakikilos ng sambayanang maka-Dios, makakalikasan, makatao at makabansa.

To me, the Filipino version is very encompassing in context and sentiment. I believe this is an issue we should ponder upon and consider its nationalistic connotation, and originality.

Our Court awaits your answer to this query. This question was posed to the Grand Royal Matron of the Grand Court of the Philippines, Order of the Amaranth on October 24, 1998 in Santiago City District Convention. We understand the Supreme Council, Order of the Amaranth will give its decision. Why shouldn't we Filipinos decide on our own version of the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag?

Respectfully yours,

(Sgd) H.L. Vicenta D. Hombrebueno
Royal Matron 1998

37th Masonic Installation Rites of Dipolog Lodge No. 162

Last January 16, 1999, WB Jefferson P. Young was raised as the 37th Master of Dipolog Lodge No. 162. Among the Dignitaries who graced the event were MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, PGM, as Guest Speaker; VW Pablo S. Chu, Grand Standard Bearer; VW Christopher Chua Tek-An, Regional Deputy Grand Master for Western Mindanao. The event was held in Sylvia's Best, Sta. Felomina, Dipolog City.

WB Jefferson P. Young reiterated in his inaugural address the shared vision and aspirations, the same dream, of the brethren and the sisters — *"The achievement of unity among brethren, the desire to renew and activate their interest in our fraternity, and to spread the sunshine of Masonry by in-*

creasing membership and better understanding of the workings of our ancient and honorable fraternity."

WB Young continued on presenting his planned programs during his term. He further pushed for our *"Basic Masonic Principles."*



Inaugural address of WB Jefferson P. Young during his installation

MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, PGM, delivers his keynote address as Guest Speaker of the 37th Installation





Reception of the Guest Speaker, MW Jose Percy L. Adiong, PGM during the installation rites. Bro. Virgilio T. Ranes, Marshal; Bro. Oscar D. Tomarong, Senior Deacon and Bro. Pablito S. Paluca, Junior Deacon.

Reception of VW Christopher Chua Tek-An, RDGM for Western Mindanao as invited guest during the installation.



Reception of VW Pablo S. Chu, Grand Standard Bearer of the MW GL of the Phils. as invited as guest escorted by the Marshal Bro. Ranes, Bro. Tomarong, Sr. Deacon and Bro. Paluca, Jr. Deacon



Narra Lodge #171 hosts Public Installation of Officers

Last January 30, 1999 marked the day for the Public installation of officers for the Masonic Year 1999. The event was held in Narra Lodge #171 Temple, Encarnacion Subdivision, San Jose City with VW Medardo Benjamin Apacible, PJGL, Police Senior Superintendent; DSC, Chief Regional Directorial Staff as Guest Speaker. VW Restituto Domingo was the installing officer.

VW Anselmo E. Munsayac, PDGL, served as emcee. After the installation of officers, fellowship immediately followed at K of C Clubhouse in Malasin, San Jose City.

The guest speaker, VW Apacible, challenged all of the brethren to keep the flaming desire about the fraternity. VW Apacible was pertaining to those who do not heed the summons of a lodge of Master Masons and those who do not attend the stated and special meetings. He also called for every brother to participate in an information drive. This information drive is to disprove and to

justify all of the misinformation regarding our Fraternity that the public bears in mind. This information drive will also bring the brethren into action not only in the four walls of the lodge but outside as well. The last point of his speech informed the rest of the brethren that the newly organized PNP Square and Compass Club Camp Olivas Chapter is not exclusively for PNP Masons but to all Masons of Region 3. VW Apacible ended his speech by once again calling to all brethren to turn the Fraternity into action, not only for ourselves but for others as well.

"Above all the other great teachers of morality and virtue, it reverses the character of the Great Master Who, submissive to the will of His and our Father, died upon the Cross. All must admit, that if the world were filled with beings like Him, the great ills of society would be at once relieved. For all coercion, injury, selfishness, and revenge, and all the wrongs and the greatest sufferings of life, would disappear at once. These human years would be happy; and the eternal ages would roll on in brightness and beauty; and the still, sad music of Humanity, that sounds through the world, now in the accents of grief, and now in pensive melancholy, would change to anthems, sounding to the March of Time, and bursting out from the heart of the world." (Morals and Dogma, pp. 718-719)

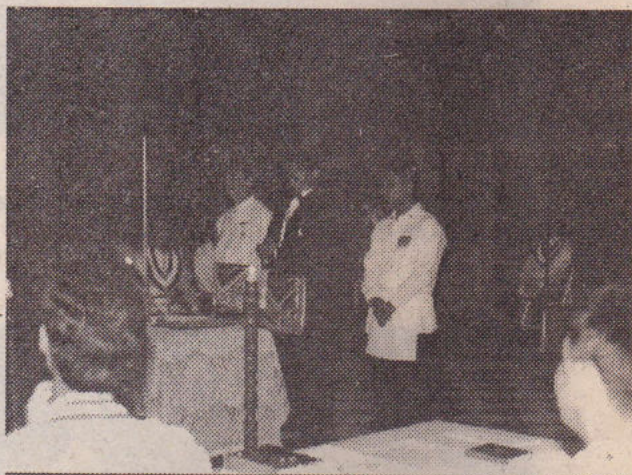
Mabini Kalaw Lodge No. 195 Installation of Officers

The installation of officers for Masonic Year 1999 of Mabini Kalaw #195, Masonic District No. 10, Lipa City, Batangas, was held last February 6, 1999 in their temple.

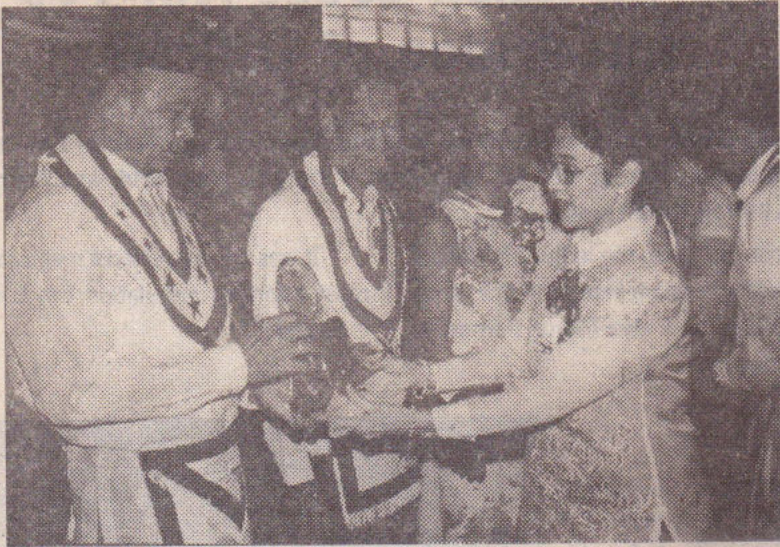
For the first time, the lodge installation was graced by luminaries such as Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto, and Vice-Mayor Fernando "Boy" Manguera.

It was one of the most memorable, and most attended installation the Lodge had ever had.

VW Celso Sarmiento, Master of Ceremonies; VW Mar Remoquillo, PDGL, Installing Officer; Bro. Hilario T. Audes, MNSA - retires after the installation of officer of the Mabini Kalaw Lodge #195



Together with Hon. Mayor Vilma - (L-R) Sis. Liling Tatlonghari, Sis. Anding Ambrida - Batangas City Lodge #35; Sis. Neneng Fortuna, OES Lipa Chapter Mabini Kalaw #195.



Hon. Vilma Santos-Recto, Guest of Honor, WB Antonio Fortuna, Worshipful Master looking on are: VW Ireneo P. Goce, PDGL; Sis. Corazon Creencia, Worthy Matron.



Bro./Engr. Benjie Parumog, Marshal, escorted Hon. Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto, guest of honor to her seat in the East while VW Goce, WB Del Castillo, JW Paduganan and guest admiringly looks on.

Congratulations To The Newly Weds

by **Bro. Resty Maravilla, Jr.**
Sec. Mabuti Lodge UD

For the first time in history, Bulusan Lodge #38 and Mabuti Lodge UD sponsored and witnessed the wedding ceremony of 78 years old VW Azarias Jayco (His Second) and 45 years old Sister Agrifina Dina (Her First), on December 19, 1999 at 4:00 p.m., inside the Bulusan Lodge, Almendras St., Sorsogon, Sorsogon.

Our three Judges WB Irene Escandor, WB Josue Ernacio and WB Max Ables were present during the ceremonies. Judge WB Max Ables officiated while assisted by a DDGM of District #14, VW Ted Rey representing the religious side, Bulusan Lodge #38 Worshipful Master Ted Hatol, Jr., stood as a male sponsor together with Bros. Eddie Chua, Eduardo Ty and Wilbert Lee. Female sponsors were Sis. Pure Ables, Sis. Betty Ernacio, Sis. Maming Doloiras and Auditor Nora Lopez.

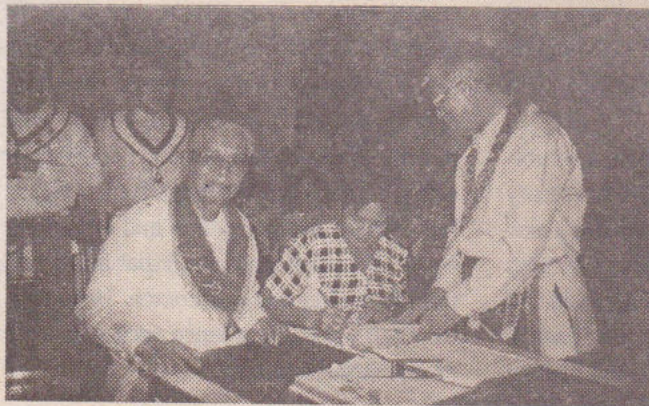
Reception was at Bulusan Lodge Social Hall and then at Acacia Grill, Restaurant, in Sorsogon, Sorsogon.

Honeymoon? VW Azarias Jayco said it's basically academic and ahead of time!

WB Judge Max Ables officiating the ceremony of VW Azarias Jayco at Bulusan Lodge



The bride & the groom in front of DDGM Ted Rey, Jr., who assisted by WB Judge Max Ables who officiated in the wedding ceremony.



CABANATUAN LODGE #53 – BEYOND THE STORM

by Bro. Carlos R. Manabat

To conquer without risk is to triumph without glory. An adage espoused by bold and daring men of history. It guarantees nothing but danger, hanging like the sword of Damocles, clinging only to that flickering beacon in the seemingly dark and endless horizon. But these men know their battle and aware of the only alternative – victory or death. They have a common cause and life's worthiness shares a common grave with it.

Cabanatuan Lodge #53 is not without such episode in its conservative but colorful history. Indeed, it helped reinforce the tradition cementing the firm resolve of the majority of its members to uphold the cause of its pioneers. But was it really necessary to divide, though casual, before achieving harmony? Can we altogether avoid such predicament from happening?

All men see the same objects, but all men do not equally understand them. The gift of free will and rationality will guarantee our individual idiocracy invariably sowing discord, albeit slowly, among the members of the Craft. We all harbor good intentions but we think differently on the means, the manner and the end. Being Masons, we initially yield to the tenets and virtues taught to us in a constant struggle to contain our desires and keep our passions within due bounds towards all mankind but especially to a brother Master Mason.

But even in the cosmic realm, a saturation point must be reached and necessary correction would take place to achieve a new equilibrium. Personal differences among members, culminating over time, would test the boundaries of harmonious relationship. Soon enough, the inevitable would happen

and re-alignment would take place to elevate the threshold of tolerance and accommodate a new order to preserve the Craft's integrity. All members, virtually playing each significant role in the process, will be affected by the tide. At the same time, the Craft does not condemn nor condone but tries to remind us and reinforce the Masonic symbolism and allegories, which are central to a harmonious co-existence among craftsmen around the globe.

Our Lodge will be best measured not by our ability to avert the inevitable but on how we cope and handle such eventuality. On a higher perspective, it should reflect our members' individual sacrifice high above their self-interest.

Beyond the storm, there maybe renewed vigor and confidence... or probably grief and bitterness. This may not be the last. For those with a good sense of history, may always find themselves above the crest of tide. A vantage point with a wider horizon and free from the superfluities below. But looking farther, peace and tranquility await us to heal the wound that awakened us from neglect and indifference. Ultimately, the Craft would once again secure us all in its hospitality and care.

Baguio Lodge No. 67 has Four-Worshipful Masters and Two Junior Wardens Masonic Year 1999

by Bro. Fernando M. Lacsamana

Impossible? Well, Baguio Lodge #67, indeed, has four (4) Worshipful Masters, but not what you were thinking, that they are all governing one lodge, but four lodges.

The current Master of Baguio Lodge is Bro. Antonio T. Tactay, 41, raised August 25, 1990, an orthopedic surgeon. Other members of Baguio Lodge #67 who are currently holding the position of Worshipful Masters are Bro. Joel C. Obar, 40, raised July 22, 1989, a Lawyer and a re-elected Master of Mt. Kaladias Lodge #91 in Dumaguete City; Bro. Nicanor S. Salvador, 40, raised March 19, 1988, a Police Superintendent Master of Jacques DeMolay Lodge #305 in Manila; and Bro. Enrique Cuadra, 53, raised September 27, 1978 and a Police General, Master of Angalo Lodge #63 in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

Bro. Fernando M. Lacsamana, 49, raised

June 27, 1987 a Development Consultant is the Junior Warden of Baguio Lodge #67; Bro. Angelito B. Garcia, 46, raised March 19, 1988, a Businessman is the Junior Warden of Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge #158 in Dagupan City.

Incidentally Bro. Tactay, Chevaliers Bro. Salvador, Chevalier and Bro. Lacsamana are all active Senior DeMolays and members of the Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay of the Philippines.

This is probably the first of its kind in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines if not across the Masonic World!



HOURGLASS. A symbol of Time. In Freemasonry as everywhere, if it is a symbol at all, it is of human events; of life. References to time in Freemasonry are many: "High Twelve" (noon); "an hour past high twelve;" "Low Twelve" (midnight), are familiar to all.

The Entered Apprentice divides his time with the 24-inch gauge; the EA and the Fellowcraft await a time with patience.

The Hourglass is an instrument for the measure of time and the bringing of human life and its time to a close. AS in all life, time in Freemasonry is important; whether regarded as a symbol of life, of immortality, or the unsolved puzzles of the universe, is any brother's choice.

THE AGBANLOG BROTHERS COME TO THE RESCUE

by VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., PJGL

Some two years ago the eye of super typhoon Rosing focused for a moment in Camarines Norte. With her torrential fury, she destroyed agricultural crops and infrastructures to their bitter end. The Masonic Center annex, which used to house the Bicol Bodies, A. & A.S.R. and the defunct Amaranth, Dalisay Court No. 16 as well as the perimeter fence were not spared.

Out of the meager funds of the Lodge, WB Antonio T. Aberca, Jr., then Master of Camarines Norte Lodge #107 in 1996, could only repair the frontage of the fence, which was about to collapse. The fence at the back of the Masonic Center was repaired from the funds of the Camarines Norte Freemasons Past Masters Club headed by President WB Eduardo S. Freyra. The firewall of the Masonic Center annex, which cracked on both ends and about to collapse, was left unattended due to lack of funds.

At the last half of his term, WB Godofredo E. Peteza, Jr. started sending solicitation letters to our affluent brethren, among them were Bros. Samuel S. Agbanlog, Abraham S. Agbanlog and Antonio S. Agbanlog, Jr. of Daet Lodge #247 at their residence in Valenzuela, Metro Manila for the reconstruction of the Masonic Center annex. Aside from sending letters, he was also attending to the installation of the air conditioning units and curtains at the Lodge Hall including iron grills and barrel bolts to secure the Lodge from burglars.

During the stated meeting of Daet Lodge #247 in December 1998, the three brothers saw the danger the firewall posed to passersby. Bro. Sammy, as his brethren in the fraternity fondly call him, immediately asked for the estimated cost of reconstruction. Upon presentation of the cost esti-

mate of P20,000 prepared by Bro. Jose Ma. E. Peteza, a civil engineer by profession, Bro. Sammy and Bro. Tony, Jr. forthwith issued a check for P20,000 payable to the order of Camarines Norte Lodge #107 through WB Peteza, Jr. who managed the reconstruction work.

However, Bro. Sammy, upon seeing the state of the ceiling at the Lodge Hall, said it be given priority since it was fully air conditioned, surrounded by beautifully tailored curtains. With that specific instruction from our benefactors, WB Peteza, Jr. cannot help but give priority to the renovation and repainting of the ceiling in the Lodge Hall. While the reconstruction of the Masonic Center Annex is just half-way finished considering the term of WB Godofredo E. Peteza, Jr. as Worshipful Master of Camarines Norte Lodge #107 about to end.

Had it not been for the financial support of the Agbanlog Brothers which paved the way for the reconstruction of the Masonic Center Annex damaged by super typhoon Rosing, the danger it posed to people living nearby would not have been solved. Had not the Agbanlog Brothers come to the rescue, the damaged Masonic Center Annex would have remained unattended to until the end of the century and into the next millenium.

Doktor sa Templo ng Kutang Bato

Doktor sa Templo that providing free medical and dental extractions to those who have less in life. This was conducted by the Worshipful Master Pedro S. Ocampo, Jr., Kutang Bato #110, and sponsored by the LU ENG YAT FOUNDATION, last March 14, 1999, Cotabato City

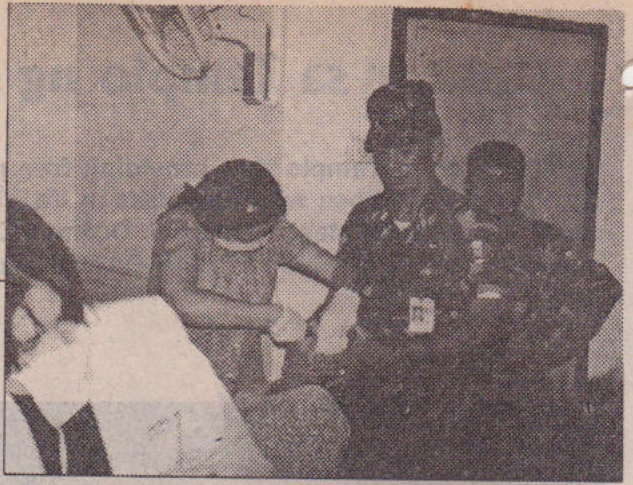


*Sponsored by the LU ENG
YAT FOUNDATION a total of
541 patients treated*

*Patients in waiting for their
turn. A project of providing free
medical and dental treatment to
the poor and needy*



*Dental team from the
Armed Forces of the Phils. came
to the rescue*



*Our patients includes
Muslims and Christians alike...*



*Brother Masons, Amaranth
Sisters, Doctors and Nurses, dis-
pensing medicines*



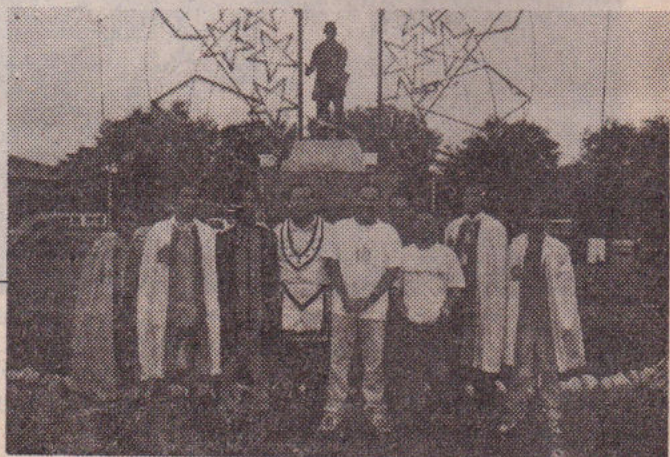
Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 133 Activities

*Offer gift giving to
inadequate - about
190 families*



*Celebrates family
reunion with widows
and orphans*

*Joint floral offering
with DeMolays*



Diffun Lodge No. 317 Sponsors Mass Blood Letting and Blood Typing

by Bro. Tomas C. Bautista

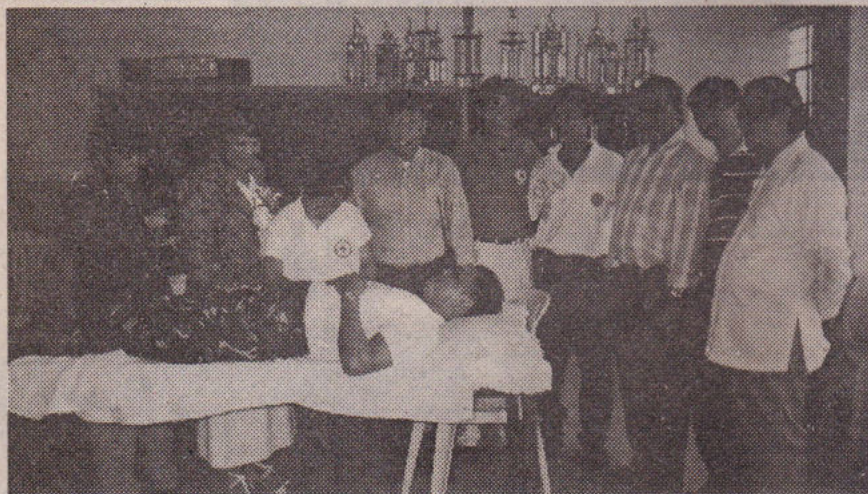
A mass blood letting was sponsored by the Diffun Masonic Lodge #317 which was dubbed as Mula sa Puso with the theme "*Patak ng Dugo ko, Daloy ng Buhay Mo.*" It was held at the Auditorium of the Julian A. Alvarez Hall, Quirino State College, Diffun, Quirino last February 12, 1999. The activity was opened formally by Hon. Perla A. Olay, Sangguniang Panlalawigan and Chair of the Blood Program, Province of Quirino. The blood letting began at 8:30 a.m. and ended 5:00 p.m. over 200 participants registering.

This community service activity was undertaken to collect blood for the benefit of the populace and the players of the CAVRAA Meet 1999 which will be hosted by the Province of Quirino on March 1-5, 1999 at Cabarroguis, Quirino.

Aside from the Diffun Masonic Lodge #317, other groups who sponsored the blood-letting program were Dad Macario Ramos Sr., Memorial Chapter of the International Order of DeMolay, 204 Community

Defense Center of Diffun (CDC), Philippine National Red Cross, Quirino State College and the Department of Health, Diffun, Quirino.

The administering doctors were Dr. Moises Lazaro, Dr. Tagumpay Felizmino of the DOH, nurses who are members of the Philippine Nurses Association, Quirino Chapter and the nurses and Medical Technologists of the Philippine National Red Cross, Quirino Chapter.



(L - R) Mrs. Jesusa N. Leal (OIC, PNR, Quirino Chapter); Hon. Perla Olay (MD) Sangguniang Panlalawigan; Med-Tech from PNR; WB Billy E. Temanel and Bro. Tomas C. Bautista, Secretary, Diffun #317; Bro. Nelson G. Macato, JW; WB Bonifacio B. Cristobal, Sr.; Bro. Rogelio Ganotisi, Treas.; WB David L. Co, PM, Cagayan Valley #133 and Bro. Arturo M. Mayo donated blood lying on bed.

MD #1 Conducts Tai Chi Classes

For physical fitness of the brethren and sisters, Masonic District 1 through WB Michael Lim Tee, we invited Mr. W.C. Chen to conduct Tai Chi classes every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7 PM at the Grand lodge of the Philippines. Mr. Chen is an expert of Tai Chi Chuan. He came from the Shoalin Temple near the Mongolian border in China.

Tai Chi Chuan instills discipline on its practitioners. Before doing the Tai Chi physical exercises, the practitioners have to undergo a 30-minute meditation. After this ritual, one student said: "I feel relaxed and alert." Another student declared: "I was able to concentrate in performing the Tai Chi movements step by step at a very slow motion." Regular practice of Tai Chi Chuan will improve the physical fitness of the individual practitioner. The body movements will stimulate flow of blood in all parts of the body. The practitioner will achieve a flexible and pliable body. Bro. Godofredo de Guzman related: "My blood pressure has improved since I started practicing Tai Chi."

"One who regularly practice Tai Chi will gain the pliability of a child, the health of a lumberjack, and the peace of mind of a sage." Stated the Chinese Tai Chi expert.

Twenty five (25) interested individuals registered for the Tai Chi lessons. Mencius #93 has

8 members (VW Benito Ang, VW Ed Ramos, WB William Ong, WB Mike Lim, WB Tony Tan Chiong, WB Angeles Limquat, Manuel Wong and Albert Go); Dalisay #14, 3 members (VW Adam Sim, Benito Sy and William Ang); one each from Bagumbayan #4 (VW Florencio Sy); Laong Laan #185 (WB Johnny Flaviano); Biak-na-Bato #7 (Bro. Eddie Chua); Labong #59 (Daniel Chua); High Twelve #82 (VW Charles Agar); Hiram #88 (Rolando Chan); Capitol City #174 (Arsenio Cua); Jacobo Zobel #202 (Godofredo de Guzman) and 6 non-Masons (Sis. Susan Locsin, Lynn Garcia, Lyn de la Calzada, Romy Go, William Gan and Federico Ong).

On the evening of 12 Dec. 1998, Masonic District #1 held a graduation ceremony for the Basic Tai Chi Class. Grand Master MW Enrique L. Locsin was the Guest of Honor, Shaolin Tai Chi Expert Chen Chia Kwo, the instructor of the class, was very happy to see his students graduated from Basic Tai Chi Class.



(L-R) VW A. Sim, Sis. Lyn Garcia, Sis. Susan Locsin, Shaolin Tai Chi Expert Chen Chia Kwo, GM Henry Locsin, MD #1 DDGM VW Ed Ramos, VW B. Ang, (L-R Standing) B M. Lim Chee Wee, Bros. A. Cua, E. Chua, W. Ang and F. Sy; VW F. Sy, WB G. de Guzman, Bros. D. Chua and W. Gan; VW C. Agar.

Masonic District No. 44 Activities



Free Medical and
Dental Clinic

Brethren at the site - Podomo #294

the patients waiting for their
consultation



Sarangani #50 Donation of
the Bust of Bro. Jose P. Rizal

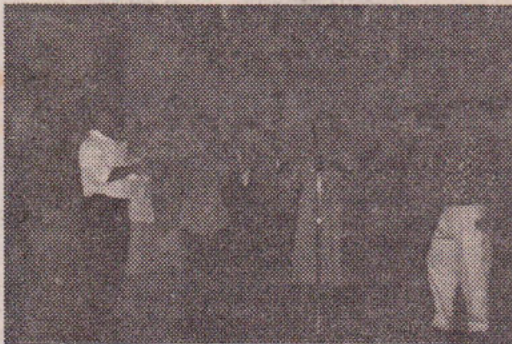
unveiling the bust, w/ representative
from GSIS Heights Elem. School

a pose with the brethren of
Sarangani members



Widow's Day Celebration

Brothers in Harmony serenading the widows



Widows doing their number w/ VW Nestor Purugganan and VW Roger Mitra.

Lodge Leadership Seminar

... all is very attentive to the Seminar



they are very serious (?)...ngork...

District Guild of Past Masters MD #46

by WB Datu Sangacala M. Baraguir

Masonic District No. 46, District Guild of Past Masters, Cotabato City, in response to their communication with the Grand Guild of Past Masters and its President, MW John L. Choa, PGM, received checks for proclamation No. 7 in the amount of P5,000 each for hospitalization and death; Proclamation No. 8 in the amount of P5,000 for death benefit.

The President of the District Guild of Past Masters, WB Datu Sangacala M. Baraguir, and the Secretary WB Amancio G. Avellanosa, Jr. personally delivered the checks to the recipients of their next of kin.

Among the recipients, and the amount they received, are the following:

1. *Late WB Carlo A. Uytaranco, Jr.*
Hospitalization – P4,000
Death Benefit – P4,000
2. *Late VW Roland V. Sublay*
Hospitalization – P4,000
Death Benefit – P4,000
3. *Late WB Romeo Castillo*
Hospitalization – P4,000
Death Benefit – P4,000
4. *WB Juan J. Ty*
Hospitalization – P3,000
5. *WB Antonio Sumayod*
Hospitalization – P4,000
6. *WB Abdulbarri Ramos*
Hospitalization – P4,000
7. *WB Datu Sangacala M. Baraguir*
Hospitalization – P4,000



(L – R) WB Datu Sangacala M. Baraguir, President – District Guild of Past Masters; Ss. Manuelita D. Uytaranco and WB Amancio G. Avellanosa, Jr., Secretary.

113th Birth Anniversary of MW Jose Abad Santos, Grand Master, 1938; Chief Justice

Jose Abad Santos was the epitome of an achiever. He was born February 19, 1886. One hundred and thirteen years later, his martyrdom and heroics are still vividly imprinted in our minds. Today, we can simply honor MW Jose Abad Santos by reminding our brethren and the rest of our country how he devoted his service for our country and his life to the Filipino people.

As a young student in his native town of San Fernando, Pampanga, he must have the nationalistic fervor against Spanish oppression. The young Jose took his Masteral Degree for Laws in the United States and received it from two universities; George Washington University and Northwestern University.

When he returned to the Philippines, he phenomenally rose in the government service. He was secretary of Justice in General Leonard Wood's administration. He was appointed Associate Justice of the Philippine Supreme Court by the U.S. President, as Chief Justice by the President of the Commonwealth Bro. Manuel L. Quezon.

Together with Bro./Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Bro. Quezon left for Australia in 1942, he left Bro. Abad Santos a letter which delegated him with the power to act on all matters of government aside from his being Chief Justice, Acting Secretary of Finance, Agriculture and Commerce. Thus, when the Japanese wantonly shot Chief Justice Bro. Jose Abad Santos, they were in effect killing a head of state. This man of principles willingly sacrificed his life in order not to betray

the government he was empowered by delegation.

On April 11, 1941, Bro. Jose Abad Santos and his son were taken into custody by the Japanese Imperial Government. He was accused of so many things that he did not know and was summarily shot without divulging any information to the Japanese. He died an outstanding statesman and a *bayani*. Later, a Brother, President Manuel Roxas wrote: "*He was probably the most enlightened and determined Filipino liberal of his time. But he espoused the cause of the common man with no thought of personal advantage or ulterior political motive...*" Another Brother, the President who delegated to him the powers of the Commonwealth Presidency, regarded him as "*one of the noblest, purest, and ablest men we had in the government service.*"

His Brothers in the Fraternity called him Bro. Pepito. His rise in the Fraternity was equally phenomenal.

He received his degrees in Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4 in 1919. In 1938, he became Grand Master. Later on, in the same year, the Philippine Bodies of the Scottish Rite

elected him to receive the degrees from 4th to the 32nd, and was made Master of the Royal Secret. In 1941, the Supreme Council 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, invested him as Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. Surely, had it not been for his premature but heroic death in 1942, he would have served masonry longer.

The late Claro M. Recto said of Bro. Pepito: *"He lived for his inner self, practicing the sterling virtues of citizenship, eschewing the false formulas of civilization, and detesting the pretensions of flattery, the applause of the mass and the worthless cries of this exposition of the vanity of our age. What a contrast there was between his noble and calm figure in comparison with the babbling masquerade around him!"*

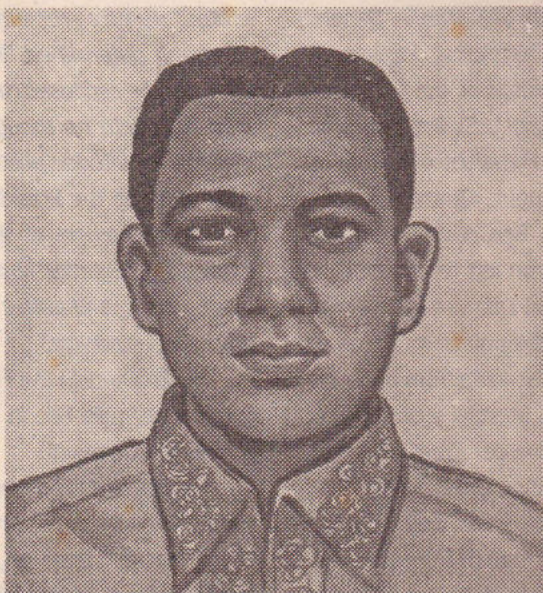
Bro. Jose Abad Santos received a posthumous citation from his Alma Mater, George Washington University in 1958. The citation fittingly described the brief span of the life of a distinguished man and Mason.

Scholar of distinction and man of deep

spiritual conviction, for his strength of character, passion for freedom, and love of God and of his country for which he gave up his last full measure of devotion.

In war and in peace, he was a natural leader. In peace, he used his high office for serving his people. In war, together with other patriots, he struggled to preserve his government against seemingly insurmountable odds. Though physically frail, he chose to remain with his captive people rather than to escape to safety in the United States. In captivity, he was faithful to his oath of allegiance; executed he remained truly noble. To his son, he addressed these last words: *"It is a rare opportunity to die for one's country. Not every one has that chance."*

He was, decidedly, a patriot, a jurist, an educator, a statesman, a Mason, and, to use a pun, not A BAD SANTOS at all, for he died a martyr. (*excerpts were lifted from – Kinship to Greatness: A tribute to the Past Grand Masters; Publisher: MW Rosendo C. Herrera*)



MW Jose Abad Santos, PGM

Shriners: Three Strikes You're Out!

by Noble Ed Murdock

PSA Past President

(Note: a true story about bringing a Shrine Temple to the Philippines)

In chronological order, the 3 attempts to get a Shrine Temple in the Philippines started in 1983 when at a PSA regular meeting of the members they voted, "to seek authority for a Temple in the Philippines." The officers and members, led by Noble Chuck De Morse, formulated a plan and it was presented to the Imperial Council AAONMS in early 1984 (see pages 5 & 6 of the October 1985 Shrine Ceremonial Book. About 30 such pages of documents & articles will be placed on display for those interested).

When the Imperial Council first gave their approval and sent the petitions to PSA time was running out rapidly for us to finish gathering the required 300 signatures of Nobles in good standing. The membership of PSA felt they needed more time to get the required signatures so a request for an extension of time was made and Imperial Council granted an additional year. Thus the first year attempt was a failure. Now we are entering the second year attempt with renewed vigor. On March 15, 1986 the very first petitions seeking a charter for a Philippine Shrine Temple were finally submitted to the Imperial Council as required by their new deadline of March 31, 1986.

The gathering of signatures from Nobles who were in good standing and who were Philippine residents amounted to more than the required minimum of 300. PSA sent them all to Imperial Council as directed. The honor system was used to establish that each Noble had a paid-up dues card from a recognized Shrine Temple. When the petitions arrived at the Imperial Council they checked (as required) each Nobles name with his Temple and found that over 100 names checked had

not paid their current Temple dues. Some had been dropped from the rolls of their Temples. As a result of these findings this attempt failed miserably to materialize. But we learned an important lesson. The next time we will xerox all members' dues cards and submit them with our application for a Temple.

Noble Chuck De Morse, Chairman of the Temple Committee, and Noble Bill Taylor (his very able assistant) both exceeded the call of duty beyond all expectations by devoting countless hours tending to the many details involved with this committee. They were fortunate to have enlisted all the members of PSA to assist in this gigantic endeavor, which, unfortunately failed to produce enough qualified Nobles signatures for a Temple on two occasions. We failed again to get 300 or more good signatures because of several reasons, one of which were many Nobles were intimidated when asked to present their Temple dues card to be xeroxed. Of course, the main reasons being that we had absolutely no support from the Filipinas Shrine Club.

Noble Rene Cruz, PSA Past President,

with the full support of the PSA members initiated still another request for Imperial Council to consider another attempt for a Temple in the Philippines. When the Imperial Council declined the original request, the members of PSA suggested that the Imperial Potentate & Divan be approached on a personal level. A letter was drafted over the signature of Noble Rene Cruz, PSA President, to this effect and sent to Noble Charles G. Cumpstone, Jr., Executive Director, Imperial Council, AAONMS, Tampa, Florida with whom Noble Chuck De Morse & other PSA Past Presidents had previously contacted. Surprisingly an invitation to visit Imperial Council members at their annual convention in Orlando, Florida was received by Noble Rene Cruz shortly thereafter.

Most Masons know that at that particular time Noble Rene Cruz was the Chief-of-Staff for president-elect Ramos before his election. Also that he was extremely busy during that election period. Because of this situation he was restrained from accepting the invitation personally but requested that he be allowed to nominate a replacement for himself. He then asked me to stand in for him at this historic meeting, which I accepted without expenses. He later informed me that PGM Joe Guerrero would join me to help make our presentation for another chance for a Temple in the Philippines. It seems that Noble Guerrero was making a trip to USA on another matter but could come down to Orlando for this meeting. I was pleased to have Joe beside me during that 24-hour visit. After we made our presentations (Joe concentrated on Philippine Masonic history while I concentrated on our Shrine history in the Philippines) we were both applauded for our efforts. There were about

23 Potentates & Imperial Officers in attendance. Noble Jack Jones, Imperial Recorder, approached us afterwards and said we did very well and he could see no reason for them to turn down our request. But he added that he would send a fax to me (I was Recorder for Noble Cruz) to make it official, which he did. We were approved again for another shot at getting a Temple in the Philippines.

Without being redundant, everyone knows that the Filipinas Shrine Club never joined in our last efforts and many of our Shriners had failed to keep up with their annual dues. The bitter taste of defeat still lingers with me during all these years passed. I hope and pray that in the coming years the Shriners of the Philippines will, indeed, have a Shrine Temple in the Philippines. That has been a long dream of mine. Please ask for the 30 pages I will send to support this article. I will make them available to the GM's office.

Before the first, second and the third attempts a group of officers and members from the Philippine Shrine Association journeyed to Cebu for the express purpose of discussing these most important plans with officers & members of the Filipinas Shrine Club. On the first trip at least 30 Nobles from PSA attended a Cebu Shrine Ceremonial to meet and discuss the plans for a Temple during and after the ceremonial. The PSA Nobles went back to Manila with only a promise that the Nobles from the South would think about it. In the following days, weeks, months, countless telephone calls were initiated by Nobles in the North to their Brother/Nobles in the South to persuade them to join forces with us in order to have a solid commitment for a Philippine Temple.

Further the PSA Nobles made seven or eight trips to Cebu (at their own expense) between these attempts but to no avail. On at least one occasion a Past Grand Master accompanied the PSA Nobles as did several other high ranking Grand Lodge Officers, but still to no avail. The question frequently asked by PSA Nobles, "*Why don't you Nobles in the South support a Temple in the Philippines?*" was answered by, "*We are not ready yet.*" PSA members made it known that having a Temple in the Philippine was more important than its proposed Manila Location. A message was sent to the President of the Filipinas Shrine Club to announce to their members that most PSA members conceded that Cebu was a just location. Still, the Nobles in the South stated they were not ready for a Temple. With this negative attitude on their part the second and third attempts by PSA also failed.

Some leaders and members of the Filipinas Shrine Club were under the opinion that in order to have a Temple in the Philippines we must first have a building and some land. Nothing is further from the truth! For instance Aloha Temple meets in the Scottish Rite Building in Honolulu. Many other Temples do the same. It has been sixteen years since the PSA made it known that we need a Temple in the Philippines. It has been seven years since our last attempt. When will the Cebu Nobles "*be ready?*" In baseball three strikes and you are out. It seems that is the case with getting a Shrine Temple in the Philippines. Three strikes and we are out!

There is no doubt in this writer's mind

that the Imperial Council will NEVER grant another petition for a Temple in the Philippines until all Nobles in the Philippines become UNITED. As for the Philippines, North must meet South, and South must meet North. How will this ever come to pass? Only one way. Give all resident Nobles with current Temple dues cards ONE VOTE. Then these Nobles vote for ONLY ONE TEMPLE authorized to conduct Ceremonials in the Republic of the Philippines without exception. Three other Temples must be eliminated from the list of four currently serving the country. There is one Temple serving the Philippines proudly, coming there twice annually without criticism, and has done more for Shriners in the Philippines than the other three or four combined who rotate their visits. UNTIL THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED, THERE CAN NEVER BE A UNIFIED SHRINE IN THE PHILIPPINES. Then send the results to the Imperial Potentate explaining to him the sincere desire that all Nobles in the Philippines wish to become unified for a single reason; for the good of Shrinedom. With only one Temple having jurisdiction in the Philippines the time will soon come when that Temple will see the need for a Philippine Temple if approved on the level that it is best, "*for the good of Shrinedom.*" A unified force of all resident Nobles cannot be ignored for long! This is a win-win situation and when your Temple is no longer a dream, every Noble will have the right to vote for all Temple officers, including yourself.

Bless The Shrine — and God Bless All Shriners!!!

ATTEND YOUR LODGE STATED MEETINGS!

The Grand Master's Overseas Visitations...

Milton C. Marvin Lodge #123 and Micronesia Lodge #173 of Guam, USA held a joint installation of Officers last February 5, 1999. The installing master was VWB Fred Dumlaio, PDDGM MD #15; and the master of ceremony was VWB Dionisio P. Gamboa, PDGL MD #15.

The newly installed Masters were WB Virgilio R. Soriano for Milton C. Marvin Lodge #123, and WB Federico Muli for Micronesia Lodge #173.

The guest speaker for the event was our very own Grand Master, MW Enrique L. Locsin.



MW Henry Locsin, together w/ his party met by the Brethren from MD #15 at the Guam Airport, headed by their DDGM (second from right) VW Leonilo T. Alger.

GM Locsin & Sis. Susan with the Governor of Guam, Hon. Carl Gutierrez





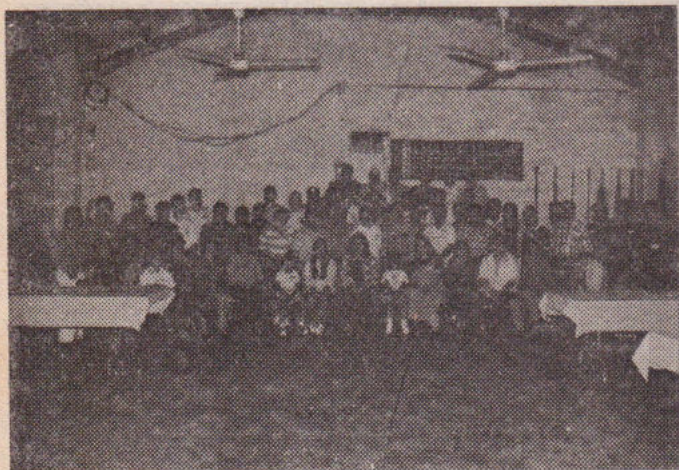
WB Jun A. Masculino, PM escorts GM Locsin and his party to the East.

GM Locsin w/ the incoming WM of Milton #123, WB Virgilio R. Soriano and Micronesia #173 WB Federico V. Muli, Jr.



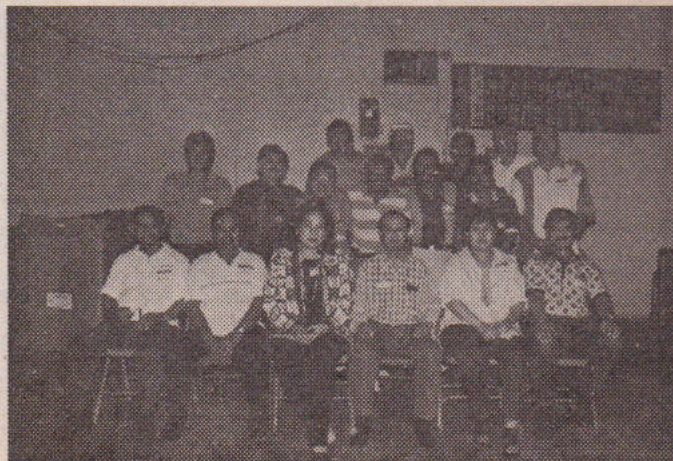
(L - R) VW Rady Alvarez, Ms. Norie, VW Leonilo T. Alger, Sis. Susan & Sis. Sally, and GM Locsin.

*the brethren sang
Happy Birthday to GM
Locsin*



*GM Locsin w/ the
brethren & their fami-
lies during the fellow-
ship the night before
the Installation.*





Installation of Officers Emon Lodge No. 179 Agana, Guam February 6, 1999

Emon Lodge #179 of Agana, Guam held its installation of officers last February 6, 1999. The installaing master for the event was VW Ramoncito P. Piaña, PJGL. The master of ceremonies was VW Alfredo Leon Guerrero.

The inaugural address was delivered by the newly installed master, WB Elias C. Buenaventura. An inspirational talk was given by Hon. Julia C. Heidemann, Consul and Head of Consular Post Philippine Consulate, CNMI. Likewise, the guest of honor and speaker was also from the Philippines ... no other than the Grand Master himself, MW Enrique L. Locsin.



GM Locsin and his party welcome by the brethren from Emon Lodge #179, Saipan, headed by the incoming WM Elias C. Buenaventura.





Marshal, Bro. Norman B. Alejo escorts the Grand Master and his party to the East.

The brethren giving the Grand Master the Grand honor



The vibrant and energetic --- VW Ramoncito Piaña as the Installing officer together with his Master of Ceremonies, VW Alfredo Leon Guerrero

VW Alger returned the gavel to WB Buenaventura to continue the ceremony.



The Grand Master giving his address as the Guest Speaker





GM Locsin poses w/ the Guest Speaker Hon. Julia C. Heidemann, Consul & Head of Consular Post, Phil. Consulate, CNMI and the installed officers of Emon Lodge #179.

MW LOCSIN'S JAPAN TRIP

By VW Peter I. Eusoof, DDGM MD #19

It was a cold and damp afternoon when Most Worshipful Enrique L. Locsin, Grand Master of all Masons in the Jurisdiction of the Philippines, accompanied by his wife, Sister Susan R. Locsin, VW Emiliano P. Langomez, Past Assistant Grand Secretary, and Ms. Norie Moldez, Executive Secretary of the Grand Master arrived at Tokyo's Narita airport on March 7, 1999. The GM and his party were welcomed by WB Zaldemar Ricamona and Bro. Alberto Gatmaitan. The wellcomers and the GM's party drove to Naval Air Facility, Atsugi, Japan, and arrived at approximately 3:10 p.m. They were met at Atsugi by VW Peter I. Eusoof, DDGM MD#19 and Bros. Tony Decena and Ed Aquino who coordinated their billeting at the base's CPO Quarters. Later that evening, the GM tendered a dinner at the Camp Zama Community Club for Rising Sun 151 brethren.

March 8

The next day, March 8th the GM and his party were treated to breakfast at the 19th Hole Restaurant of the Atsugi Golf Course by several brethren led by VW Eusoof. The GM and his entourage accompanied by Bros. Albert Gatmaitan, Efren Bueno, Israel Villones, Ed Aquino and Jay Cervantes spent the rest of the day exploring the sights of Yokohama, the premier port of Mainland Japan.

On the evening of the same day, a grand reception was held for the Grand Master at Rising Sun Lodge No. 151 in Camp Zama, 6 kilometers north of Atsugi. Several Masonic dignitaries led by RW Leroy Trent, Assistant District Deputy Grand Master MD#6, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington attended the reception. After VW Eusoof's opening remarks, RW Trent voiced his appreciation for the recognition of our Grand Lodges. MW Locsin then delivered an inspirational speech focused on the "Role of Masons in Philippine Independence." The Lodge then presented tokens of appreciation to the Grand

Master, Sis. Susan, VW Langomez and Ms. Moldez. The grand reception went smoothly, thanks to the efforts of VW Langomez who instructed the brethren on Masonic decorum and protocols. A sumptuous potluck dinner followed at the Lodge's Fellowship Room.

March 9

After breakfast, the GM and his party were motored to Tokyo and later checked-in at his hotel room at Tokyo's New Otani Hotel. Accompanied by several brethren, the rest of the day was spent sightseeing and shopping.

March 10

The GM and his party accompanied by VW Eusoof, WB Ricamona and Bro. Bueno made a courtesy call to MW William Heath, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Japan. MW Chester Ditto, PGM, Grand Secretary gave the GM and his entourage a guided tour of the Tokyo Grand Lodge. He showed them the majestic Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite Lodge. The highlight of the tour was the

"War Room", the same room where high-ranking officials of the Imperial Japanese Army and Navy decided 58 years ago that they would declare war on the U.S. This room used to be located at the old Army and Navy club in Yokohama and was painstakingly dismantled and reassembled at the Grand Lodge building. Following the courtesy call, the GM and his party were treated to a sumptuous lunch buffet at the New Sanno Military Hotel in Downtown Tokyo. The rest of the day was spent preparing for the GM and Sis. Susan's departure for Spain the following day.

March 11

Early the next day, the GM and Sis. Susan departed for Spain. VW Langomez stayed behind in the Tokyo area while Ms. Moldez returned to Atsugi and stayed with the family of Bro. Efren Bueno.

March 13

At the 42nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Japan, VW Eusoof accompanied by VW Langomez, WB Ricamona and Ms. Moldez, represented MW Locsin. He delivered a message from the GM conveying his warmest felicitations to the outgoing officers and wishing the incoming officers a fruitful term. Installation banquet and fellowship ensued.

March 14

On Sunday, March 14th, VW Langomez and Ms. Moldez departed for Manila.

The brethren of Rising Sun Lodge wishes to thank the GM for taking time out from his busy schedule to visit and meet the brethren in person. We truly enjoyed the few days we spent with him, Sis. Susan, VW Langomez and Ms. Moldez. We will forever cherish and treasure the memories of your visit.



GM Henry Locsin pay a courtesy call to the GM of the GL of Japan. (L R) VW E. Langomez, Jr.; MW Chester L. Ditto, PGM, GS of the GL of Japan; WB Z. Ricamona, IPM of Rising Sun #151, MW Locsin, VW P. Eusoof, DDGM of our MD #19, MW William Heath; a brother from GL of Florida and Bro. Efren Bueno



*(L - R) Bro. Bert Gatmaitan,
Sec of #151; GM & Sis. Susan
Locsin; Ms. Norie; VW Peter
Eusoof, DDGM; Bros. Ed
Aquino, Danielson Cervantes,
Israel Villones and Efren Bueno.*





GM Locsin with the handsome brethren from #151

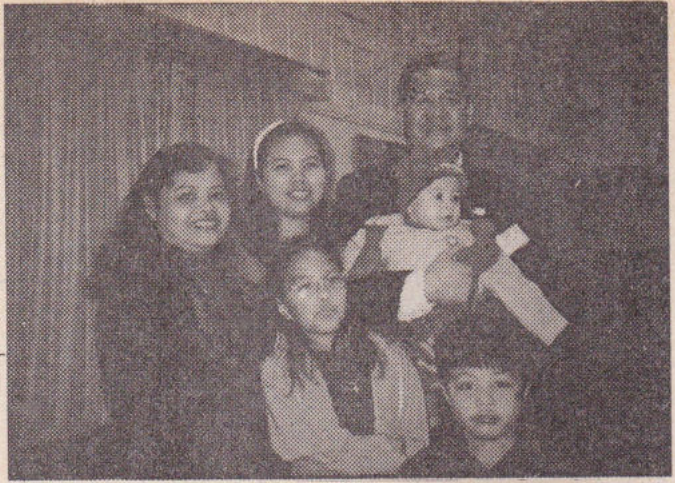
GM tender a dinner w/ the Rising #151 brethren



Fellowship Dinner with the Rising #151



*Their families ... and
other visiting brethren
from the GL of Japan
and Price Hall GL of
Washington*



ANCOM of the Grand Orient of Italy

by Sis. Susan R. Locsin

The Annual Communication of the Grand Orient of Italy was held in Rome on the 19th and 21st of March 1999.

MW Enrique L. Locsin, Grand Master, attended the international meeting on Giordano Bruno Universal Man and Martyr of the freethinking on March 18, 1999.

MW Locsin read a report entitled "Rizal and Giordano Bruno." The meeting had in attendance members of the Academe from different universities who read their own reports

about Giordano Bruno.

The Italian experience will be most memorable to MW Enrique L. Locsin and Sis. Susan due to the wonderful reception and hospitality of their host.

Sunny Italy it was under freezing temperature, all because of the all-out warmth and sincerity of the Italian brethren. Graci!

Wreath Laying at the Statue of Bro. Giordano Bruno



MW Enrique L. Locsin w/ MW Virgilio Gaito, PGM (Italy) to his left at the foot of Giordano Bruno's statue.

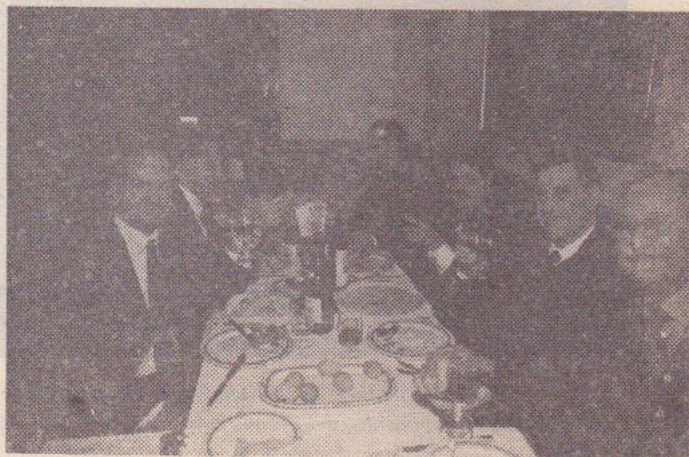
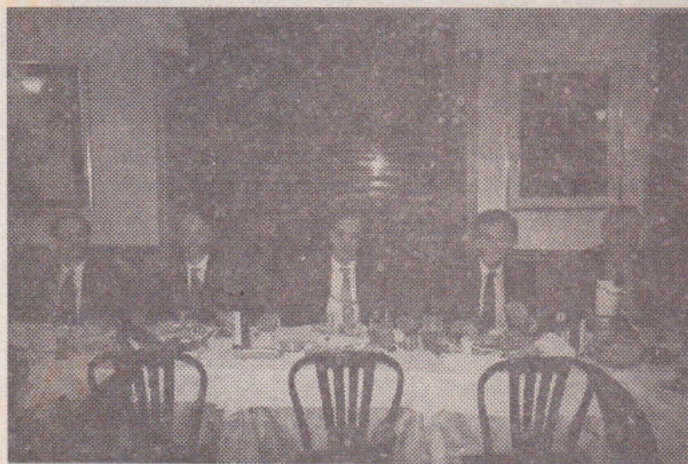
*MW Henry Locsin
w/ European Grand
Masters, Foreign Digni-
taries and Local Ma-
sons;*



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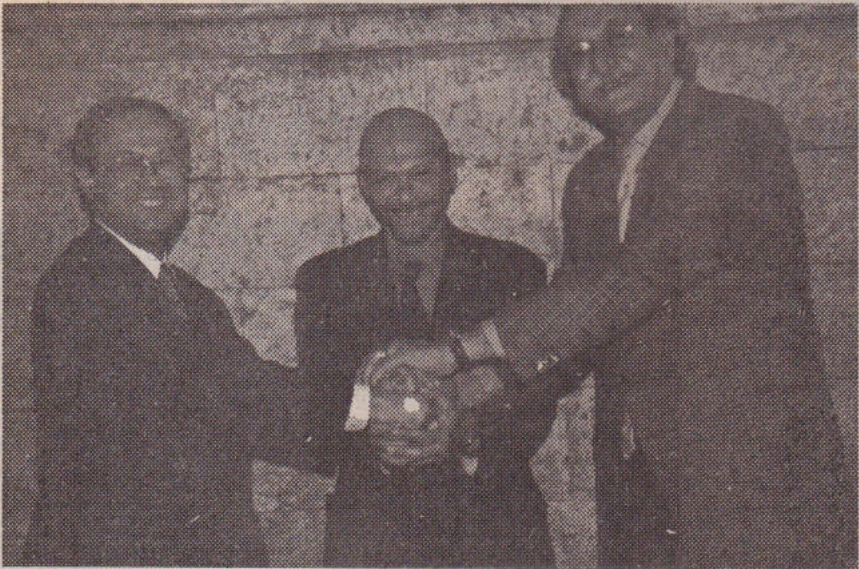
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At dinner hosted by RW Adriano Moscatelli (far right); from left Bro. Dario Fiore, Bro. Alessandro Antenore, Bro. Domenico dela Ventura and MW Enrique L. Locsin, Grand Master.



All smiles as they do the handshake clasp from left MW Enrique L. Locsin, RW Domenico dela Ventura and RW Adriano Moscatelli.

Memories from Spain ...



*On tour of
Valencia w/
Señora Ann
Sarobe (wife of
GM) and together
w/ Grand Masters
and their ladies*





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*"You name it, we have it, if we dont,
we will look for it..."*

from: **NOBLE LOPE A. IRINGAN**

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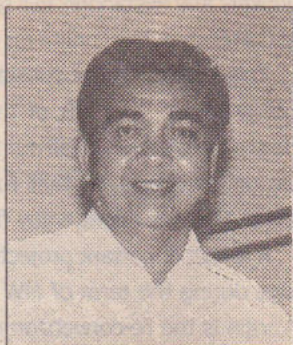
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FINAL REPORT OF THE BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT

VW Rene C. Damian, PDDGM

Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148



It is a pleasure for me as Building Superintendent to give you, dear Brethren, a rundown of projects undertaken and still to be undertaken during the term of MW Enrique L. Locsin, to whom, I, in turn, have to convey my gratitude for reposing his confidence in me. But we could not have accomplished much without the unselfish support and cooperation of the brethren. What we have proven once again is that we can accomplish the goals we have set before us if we work together in close harmony.

It is providential, indeed, that MW Enrique L. Locsin was our Grand Master during the celebration of the centennial of the independence of our country from Spanish colonial rule. He deserves to be called our centennial Grand Master.

Let me now give you a catalogue of projects accomplished and still to be accomplished during the year of MW Locsin in the Grand East, as follows:

The Masonic Centennial Gate on Benitez Street will be unveiled most probably on the last week of March 1999. This project, sponsored by WB Roland Chiu, then Worshipful Master of High Twelve Lodge No. 82, and some members of the Lodge, may be said to be a monumental project, which will certainly enhance the beauty of our Grand Lodge premises. It is an additional Masonic landmark in which members of the Craft may take justifiable pride and our Craft's contribution to the celebration of the centennial of Philippine independence from Spanish colonial rule.

Another contribution of the Craft to

the centennial celebration is the putting up of a Marker in honor of the 13 Martyrs of Bagumbayan, most of whom were Masons, at the Japanese Garden in Luneta. This equally important project is sponsored by Walana Lodge No. 13, under the leadership of WB Danilo Mangila. The Marker was unveiled last February 27, 1999, which coincided with the Lodge's Installation of Officers.

The Centennial Clock project, spearheaded by VW Sonny K. Wang, DDGM of Masonic District No. 5, will cost more than one million pesos — that is, excluding the Bulova Clock, which costs approximately \$18,000 each. There will be three Bulova Clocks set up. Hence, the three will cost \$54,000. Timing of the clocks shall be done by satellite. The most accurate time in the Philippines is our Masonic Centennial Clock time. The engineering crew of the project is headed by Bro. Homobono C. Pique. The earlier architectural design and blue print were done by VW Cesar C. Mendoza, PDDGM. And the project will be unveiled on April 09, 1999. Finally, on that date,

onlookers and bystanders will see the Square and Compass at the Luneta for the first time.

This project may be considered "mother of all projects" — a gift of the Masons of today to the memory of all our Brothers who gave up their lives so that future generations of Filipinos might enjoy freedom.

A fourth important project of our Grand Lodge during the term of MW Bro. Enrique L. Locsin is the re-conversion of the facade of Old Plaridel Masonic Temple to the way it looked Circa 1938.

The canopy in front of the old temple was removed, with the help of the Janitors, Ipe, Celso, William, Fidel, Badong, and myself as the foreman. Bro. Eduardo Puno of Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148 assisted in cutting the 8 steel beams by acetylene free of charge to the Grand Lodge. VW Benito K. Tan of Labong Lodge No. 59 donated the vigan tiles to enhance the Spanish look of the front flooring of the Circa 1938 facade.

This project would not have materialized without the labor of several unselfish brethren, who offered assistance gratis et amore. To them, this labor of love is a gift to the Grand Lodge; it is their way of saying "Thank you" for the opportunity to be of service to the Grand Lodge in general and to Grand Master Locsin in particular.

The name "Plaridel Masonic Temple I" together with the address was installed last March 6, 1999, the facade of our Old Temple. Expenses for this have been shouldered by WB Gilbert L. Pazcoguin and the members of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4.

Another project undertaken during MW Locsin's term was the putting up of a Brethren's Lounge on the 4th floor of Plaridel Masonic Temple II, WB Gilbert Pazcoguin and VW Bobby Go of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4

and Service Lodge No. 95, together with the members of the two Lodges, were mainly instrumental in the realization of this project.

The windows of Palma Hall were decorated with Square and Compass with blue background so that the heat of the sun would be minimized, and at the same time the goings-on inside, such as the conferral of degrees, would not be seen from the outside. This project was sponsored by VW Leonardo T. Chua, PDDGM of District No. 7, and F.D. Roosevelt Lodge No. 81.

Since there was only one bell in the Grand Lodge for use in the conferral of the Third Degree, Districts 3, 5 and 7 donated three bells. Now every hall is provided with one bell. No more waiting. Biak-na-Bato Lodge No. 7 donated four (4) ballot boxes.

VW Rudy L. Ong, DDGM of Masonic District No. 3, magnanimously undertook the framing of the Lecture Scroll, as well as donated the wall mirror and scenic frames on the 4th floor of Plaridel Masonic Temple for the brethren lounge.

The Social Hall of Plaridel Masonic Temple II is now graced with 8 big electrical fans, thanks to the initiative of VW Sonny K. Wang of District No. 5. The 8 fans were donated by the Metro Manila Districts and one from VW Rogelio S. Talastas, Regional Deputy Grand Master.

Moreover, the Grand Lodge Dormitory has been renovated and has started operating. Additional locker cabinets and window screens were installed in the rooms.

Old Plaridel Masonic Temple was repainted and old parts thereof repaired or replaced to give the temple a clean-cut look/view.

The hallway and the old Abad Santos Hall will be restored to their old glory. This

was designed to preserve its historical value. This will be financed by the fund-raising of MW Locsin held last December 19, titled "*The Grand Master At Your Service.*" The rest of the proceeds of the fund-raising project will be used for furnishing the dormitory and for repairing the old Abad Santos Hall.

The gate and the fence on General Luna Street were repaired; barb wire was attached to the fence so that burglars will be prevented from entering the premises.

Steel matting frames were installed on the windows of the Library and Museum and those of the paraphernalia storage room, to further prevent burglars from entering.

These preventive measures had to be taken because last year 48 monoblock chairs were stolen. They were most probably smuggled out through the windows of the Museum.

Since the steel door on the roof deck was found missing, it was replaced with an old door taken from Plaridel Temple I. This was done as a cost-cutting measure.

A steel door was installed at the electrical room on the first floor of Plaridel Masonic Temple II.

In addition, all the 15 broken steel window frames were repaired.

There is a leak in the canopy of Plaridel Masonic Temple II. This will be attended to as soon as funds are available.

The tree house complex now looks attractive due to repairs undertaken, and the Kapihan sa Plaridel was rebuilt for dining purposes. The brethren have expressed approval of the repair and rebuilding because they can now enjoy fellowshiping with one another better.

What was done with the old baluster in the old temple? It was recycled as flower-

pot stands. (14 pieces in all).

All flower-pot boxes, by the way, were repaired and restored to their original design, as with the wooden lounge chairs and rattan furniture that were repaired and painted.

To add beauty and glamour to the old Plaridel Masonic Temple, we installed a steel flag staff on its rope, so that the revolutionary flags, the replica of the Aguinaldo flag, and the present national colors may be displayed. By so doing, we can claim that it is only in the Plaridel Masonic Temple that the complete array of Philippine flags are being displayed.

We are proud to report to the brethren that both the old and new Plaridel Masonic Temples are being maintained well, keeping it clean and tidy and orderly, so that guests, both foreign and local, will enjoy their visit of these historical sites. We fondly hope that foreign guests will include our Grand Lodge buildings and premises as part of their itinerary when visiting the Philippines.

We want to inform the brethren, furthermore, that additional half-bust monuments of Masonic heroes, such as those of Aglipay, Ricarte, Lope K. Santos and others, are being made. Life size monuments of Bonifacio and Del Pilar will soon be erected in front of the new temple.

If brethren will visit the Grand Lodge and its premises, they will notice that all the lighting fixtures in both old and new temples were improved. In fact, the Grand Lodge and its premises are, to borrow a title of a short story by Ernest Hemingway, "*a clean and well-lighted place.*"

Readily noticeable is the spotlight at the facade of the old Plaridel Masonic Temple. The parking area and the area by the gate

on General Luna Street are well lighted, too.

Be informed, in addition, Brethren, that Room No. 8 has been assigned as the Grand Master's room. To make him more comfortable or to enable him to breathe some fresh air, we have provided the room with an azotea.

To enable passers-by or visitors to have a full view of the Masonic centennial gate, we trimmed down the giant trees nearby.

The ceiling of the Grand Lodge canteen was repaired and the dining room was rearranged to make it look more spacious.

We have to give due recognition to VV Conrado V. Sanga of Araw Lodge No. 18, who financed the finishing of the back portion of Stafford Hall.

Having found out that additional lighting had been installed at the Tree House Complex, brethren are willing to rent the Tree House for only P500. This will be an additional revenue for the Grand Lodge.

It may be of further interest to the brethren that the Grand Lodge will fly a replica of the Aguinaldo Flag at the front of the old Plaridel Masonic Temple, and display replicas of the same at the lobbies of both temples.

The Bulwagang Kapatiran will also be screened and the sala will be provided with a TV set, coffee mess, and newspapers and periodicals for use by visiting brethren, especially those from the provinces.

The Square & Compass signs will be placed in the front and back side of the canopy and the top of the new Temple, as well as the name of the Grand Lodge.

The exact replica of the scene of the 3-5-7 steps will also be built, time permitting. The location of the scene is near by the Masonic Centennial Gate.

Wall murals made of cement depicting the unfurling of the Philippine flag by Bro. Emilio Aguinaldo may, be put up on the left side of the new Plaridel Masonic Temple and on the right side will be the tearing of the cedula by Gat Andres Bonifacio, if time permits once again.

There is also a plan to put up the San Marcelino gate, subject to availability of time and sponsors.

The leak at the beam near the men's comfort room at the 2nd floor will be repaired in due time.

The elevator was repaired in the amount of P157,000. The repair could have been avoided had the plan to put up the lightning arrestor been implemented.

All photography works done by WB Charles F. Megerle, Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master and the Official Photographer of the Cabletow.

To Sister Susan R. Locsin, our special thanks to her enthusiastic support for the beautification projects and the greening of the Plaridel compound. A special Lady with a touch of gold and beauty. A sister friend worthy of respect and admiration.

To the Executive Secretary, Ms. Norie, my overwhelming gratitude for all the computer works and other favors.

To WB Flor R. Nicolas of Noli #148 my special thanks and gratitude to all his assistant and friendship.

Also on the trestleboard is the undertaking of Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148; the renaming of San Marcelino Street to Plaridel Avenue in honor of Marcelo H. del Pilar.

A marker to honor all those Filipinos who were tortured and killed inside the Plaridel compound during World War II. Another

marker for all Masons who were members of the Katipunan. All Historical Markers will be erected somewhere in the Temple compound.

These, my brethren, are the projects that have been accomplished and plans that are yet to be realized.

We reiterate our thanks to all the brethren who have helped our Grand Lodge accomplish those projects and who will extend assistance for the realization of the projects that are still on the trestleboard.

SPONSORS OF THE GRAND LODGE PROJECTS

1. *Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4* - Name of Old Temple in bronze metal.
2. *Island Luz Lodge No. 5* - 2 Wall fans for Bulwagang Kapatiran; 1 Stand fan for the Social Hall
3. *Service Lodge No. 95* - 2 Wall fans for the Brethren's Lounge at the fourth floor
4. *Biak-Na-Bato Lodge No. 7* - 7 Wooden Chairs for the Stafford Hall; 4 Ballot boxes for the Lodge's use
5. *VW Jaime Y. Gonzales, Senior Grand Steward* - Refurbished the Bulwagang Kapatiran w/ four bamboo sala sets, 2 native mirror, 4 bamboo lamp shades and 2 bamboo book shelves
6. *WB Wilfrido S. Juco* - Sponsored the cottage type Bahay-Kubo; WM- Taga-Ilog Lodge #79 in the tree house complex
7. *VW Benito K. Tan, DGL* - Donated the red vigan tiles to enhance the MD#3 (Labong Lodge #59)
8. *Walana Lodge No. 13* - Sponsored the painting of the facade of the old temple
9. *Mr. Felix Resurreccion* - Sponsored the plastering of the Masonry Dormitory Contractor works in the old temple
10. *WB Wilfred M. Yu* - Donated 2 wall fans for the Kapihan sa WM - Dapitan Lodge #21 Plaridel (dining place) in the tree house complex
11. *Bro. Homobono C. Pique* - Donated P100,000.00 for the working plans, Member - Makabugwas bill of materials and blue print of the Lodge #47 Centennial Clock at the Luneta and donated P50,000.00 for the project payable to the GLP.
12. *VW Rogelio S. Talastas* - Donated farm lumber and steel materials for RDGM - NCR the Centennial Clock.
13. *VW Sonny K. Wang* - Donated P100,000.00 for the Centennial Clock. There were already a lot of brethren, Lodges and Districts signifying their intention to donate for this worthy project.
14. *Mencius Lodge No. 93* - Donated P400,000.00 for the Centennial Clock.
15. *VW Cesar C. Mendoza* made the early design and blue print of the three centennial projects free of charge to the Grand Lodge.
16. *All Engineering Design*, plans and blue print, Surveying works and

beauty of the facade of the old temple Circa 1938

- costing, laying out-crew around P50,000.00 were all donated by Bro. Homobono C. Pique, a member of Palanyag Lodge U.D. & Makabugwas Lodge No. 47, to the Masonic Centennial Clock Project at no cost to the Grand Lodge. The project designs were all new and the working design and blue print were also provided free of charge by Bro. Pique.
17. *All Grand Lodge projects* for the Centennial costing more than P4,000,000.00 were all donations of the brethren to the term of MW Enrique L. Locsin as Centennial Grand Master and to the Grand Lodge
 18. The Grand Lodge Gymnasium will be widened and improved for the brethren's use. Instructors will be provided three times a week. Additional equipment will be donated by the brethren and the existing equipment will be repaired. A sauna bath or steam room will also be built.
 19. Telephone will be provided to the Dormitory. No long distance call allowed (local or overseas).
 20. Two Phone Card Machine will be installed in the old and new temple.
 21. The old round steel frame name of Plaridel Masonic Temple will be transferred in the temple compound.
 22. New drainage by the tree house compound was installed.
 23. All Centennial and other lesser projects were all done thru sponsorship of the brethren. It's all free of charge to the Grand Lodge.
 24. *Thru Dapitan Lodge No. 21* the Bulova Clocks were made available by the Bulova Watch Company.
 25. *The Mencius Lodge No. 93* is celebrating their Diamond Jubilee Anniversary (75th year). The Lodge donated P400,000.00 to the Centennial Clock .
 26. Heavy duty electric fans (8 units) were donated by NCR Districts (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 & 13) and their Regional Deputy Grand Master, VW Rogelio S. Talastas for our Social Hall.
 27. Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148 doanted two (2) wall fans to the Bulwagang Kapatiran at the Tree House.
 28. *Araw Lodge No. 18* also donated two (2) wall fans for the Tree House.
 29. *Bro. Philip Yao* of Dapitan Lodge No. 21 was the coordinator of getting the Boluva Clock from Germany.
 30. The Masonic Centennial Clock contractor was *Mr. Godofredo Julian*.
 31. The Masonic Centennial Gate contractor was *Mr. Ceciro L. Alisbo*.
 32. The 13 Martyrs of Bagumbayan contractor engineer and architecture was *Bros. Abdul Nasher P. Hadjirul and Jojo Morales*.
 33. The last but not the least is the donation of *Grand Master Locsin* Austrian Crystal Chandelier costing P220,000.

Mencius donates for Centennial Clock Project

The officers of Mencius Lodge #93, paid a courtesy call to MW Enrique L. Locsin last Wednesday, March 29, 1999.

A check donation in the amount of P400,000 was also presented for the Centennial Clock Project at the Rizal Park. This donation, initiated by WB Alejandro Tan, Immediate Past Master of Mencius Lodge #93, will finance the project to be undertaken by the Lodge in commemoration of its 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary for this year (June 28, 1924 - June 28, 1999).

Said Donation is for the early completion of the project during the administration of MW Henry Locsin and they assured the Grand Master of their full support and cooperation.



(L - R) VW Eduardo S. Ramos, DDGM, MD #1; WB William C. Dy, PM, Treasurer; WB Michael Lim Chee We, PM; WB Henry L. Yap, Worshipful Master; VW Mariano Sih, PAGT, Secretary; MW Enrique L. Locsin; Sis. Susan Locsin; VW Sonny K. Wang, DDGM, MD #5 and VW Benito C. Ang, PDDGM.

Bro. Teodoro "Ted" Madamba, Jr. *Masonic Artist*

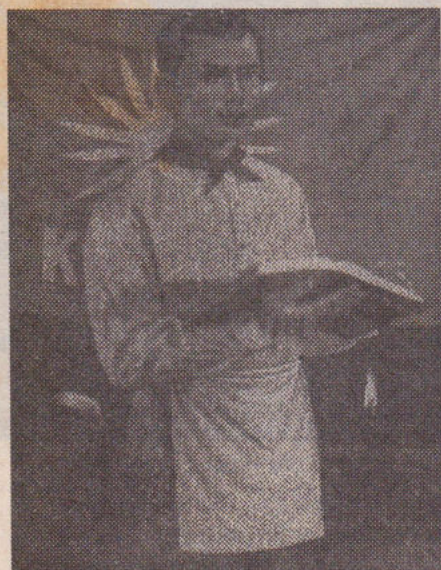
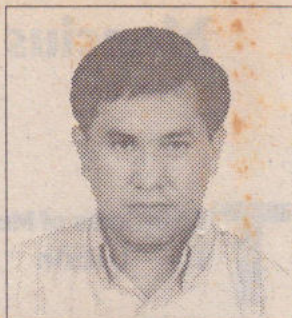
Bro. Teodoro "Ted" O. Madamba, Jr. was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in April 1997 and since then has been a very dynamic and creative member of Maktan Lodge # 30.

Upon the instructions of the Grand Lodge on our participation in the Philippine Centennial Celebration, Bro. Ted conceived of a unique project, which involved the three Cebu-based blue lodges, namely, Cebu Lodge #128, Mt. Moriah Lodge #252 and Maktan Lodge #30. His concept was a travelling art exhibit showing the heroes of the Philippine Revolution who were Masons, clad in their aprons. He commissioned a well-known artist, Mr. Manuel Panares to do the first painting on Bro. Emilio Aguinaldo — after careful research work with Mrs. Tonette Panares (wife of artist), who is currently Curator of the

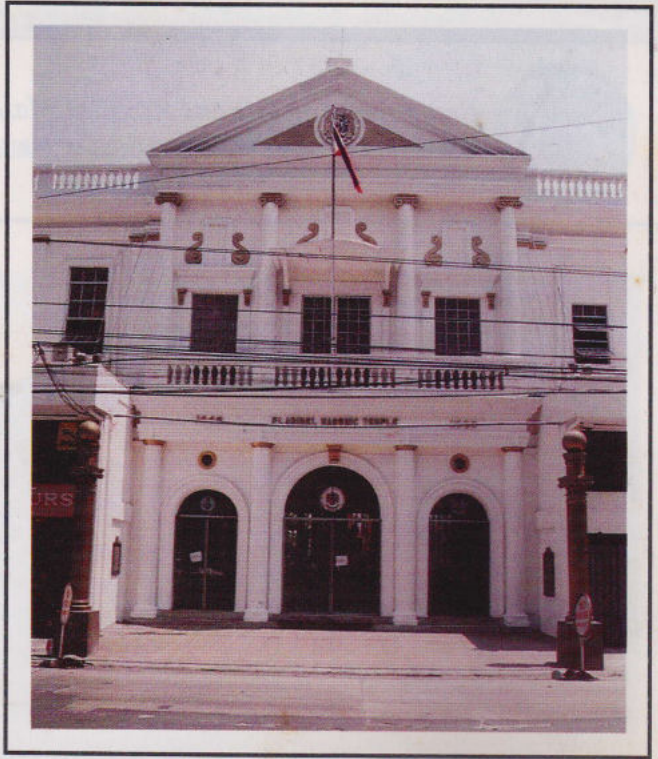
Southwestern University Museum.

Bro. Ted also authored a brochure entitled, *FACT'S ABOUT FREEMASONRY*, which was distributed during the various art exhibitions. With his expert skills in photography, he made reproductions of the original paintings in color photos.

And because of Bro. Ted's active and dedicated service in organizing successfully all of the above Philippine Centennial Celebration activities, he was awarded the *HIRAM AWARD Medal* during the recent Public Installation of Officers for Maktan Lodge #30.



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